

UP-TO-DATE
AND NEWSY

BEST SPORTING PAGE IN NEW YORK

EDITED BY
ROBERT EDGREN

IN THE DAYS OF REAL FIGHTING.

FITZSIMMONS DIDN'T GET
CENT WHEN HE DEFEATED
JIM CORBETT FOR TITLE

Winner of One of Greatest Ring Battles Became Partner of Promoter and Was Compelled to Contribute His \$15,000 Purse to General Expenses and Losses of Fight Conducted by Dan Stuart in 1897.

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By Robert Edgren.

No. 4. How one of the world's greatest championship battles was fought for nothing.

THE fight between Bob Fitzsimmons and Jim Corbett for the heavy-weight championship of the world was worked up for years. There was deadly rivalry between the two. Fitzsimmons had repeatedly challenged John L. Sullivan (whom he could undoubtedly have beaten in a few rounds then) and Corbett was the lucky one to get the Sullivan match. Fitzsimmons, disappointed in the Sullivan matter, camped right on Corbett's trail and annoyed Corbett exceedingly with challenges. Worse than that for Corbett's peace of mind, press and public began to wonder if Fitzsimmons wasn't Corbett's master in the ring.

They met once in Green's Hotel, Philadelphia, and Fitzsimmons asked Corbett publicly for a match. Corbett expected in Fitzsimmons's eye (fighters' manners being somewhat crude in that day), but that didn't prove anything. The upshot of it all was that Corbett was driven by public opinion into making a match with Fitzsimmons to defend the heavyweight title. He didn't want to do it, but he had to. And once matched he became filled with an overwhelming desire to beat Fitzsimmons to a pulp and prove that Jim Corbett's equal didn't exist on earth.

Probably no man ever trained harder for a fight than Corbett trained for Fitzsimmons. The fight was held at Carson, Nevada, March 17, 1897. As a cub sporting writer I joined Corbett's camp a little over a month before the fight, and for four weeks sparred with him daily and took long jogs on the road. In all the camp I knew was the only man who would stick to Corbett in his daily runs. The champion was never satisfied. He even went for a long run the day before the fight, and for a walk on the morning of the fight, which was fought at noon.

MEN AGREED THAT WINNER TAKE ENTIRE PURSE.

Over on the other side of Carson City, a few miles away, Fitzsimmons worked nearly as hard as Corbett. There was a difference. Fitzsimmons wasn't driven by doubt and anxiety. He was full of practical jokes, good natured, pleased with everything, and quite satisfied with his condition and confident that he'd win.

The Corbett-Fitzsimmons fight attracted more attention than any other since Corbett and Sullivan met at New Orleans. People came from all over the world to see it. Carson City was swarmed with the best known sporting men of the continent.

And the purse offered by promoter Dan Stuart was just exactly \$15,000, winner take all.

Compare that with the \$33,700 paid McFarland and Gibbons for a neat ten-round exhibition, and have a good laugh at modern boxing and everything that goes with it.

For the \$15,000 purse Corbett and Fitzsimmons were to fight to a finish; not even a forty-five-round fight, but a fight that could end only when one or the other was unable to continue. It was for the most important world's championship! And the purse—for both men—was \$15,000. Things have changed!

To go just a little farther, I might as well say that the Corbett-Fitzsimmons match was fought for nothing, which is literally true. Corbett, as a loser, didn't get any money and was out of pocket on training and other

expenses, to say nothing of the money value of the title he lost that day. And Fitzsimmons, winner of the fight, didn't get a dollar of the \$15,000 purse.

The reason for this is little known. Dan Stuart, the promoter, came to Fitzsimmons a short time before the fight and offered to take Fitzsimmons into partnership. Fitz accepted. The gate money was all taken up by the building of a large arena, advertising and other expenses. In fact it was more than eaten up, according to Fitzsimmons, a short time before the fight. He was compelled to contribute his \$15,000 purse to the general cause of promotion, and he never saw a dollar of it.

The biggest fight in many years was fought for nothing!

During the first few rounds Corbett jabbed Fitzsimmons almost as he pleased. He cut Bob's lips and made them bleed. A large part of the trouble was Mrs. Fitzsimmons, who sat immediately in front of me. She sniped up every few seconds and shrieked advice to her fighting husband, and whenever he heard her voice he looked around, and whenever he looked around Corbett stepped in and nailed him.

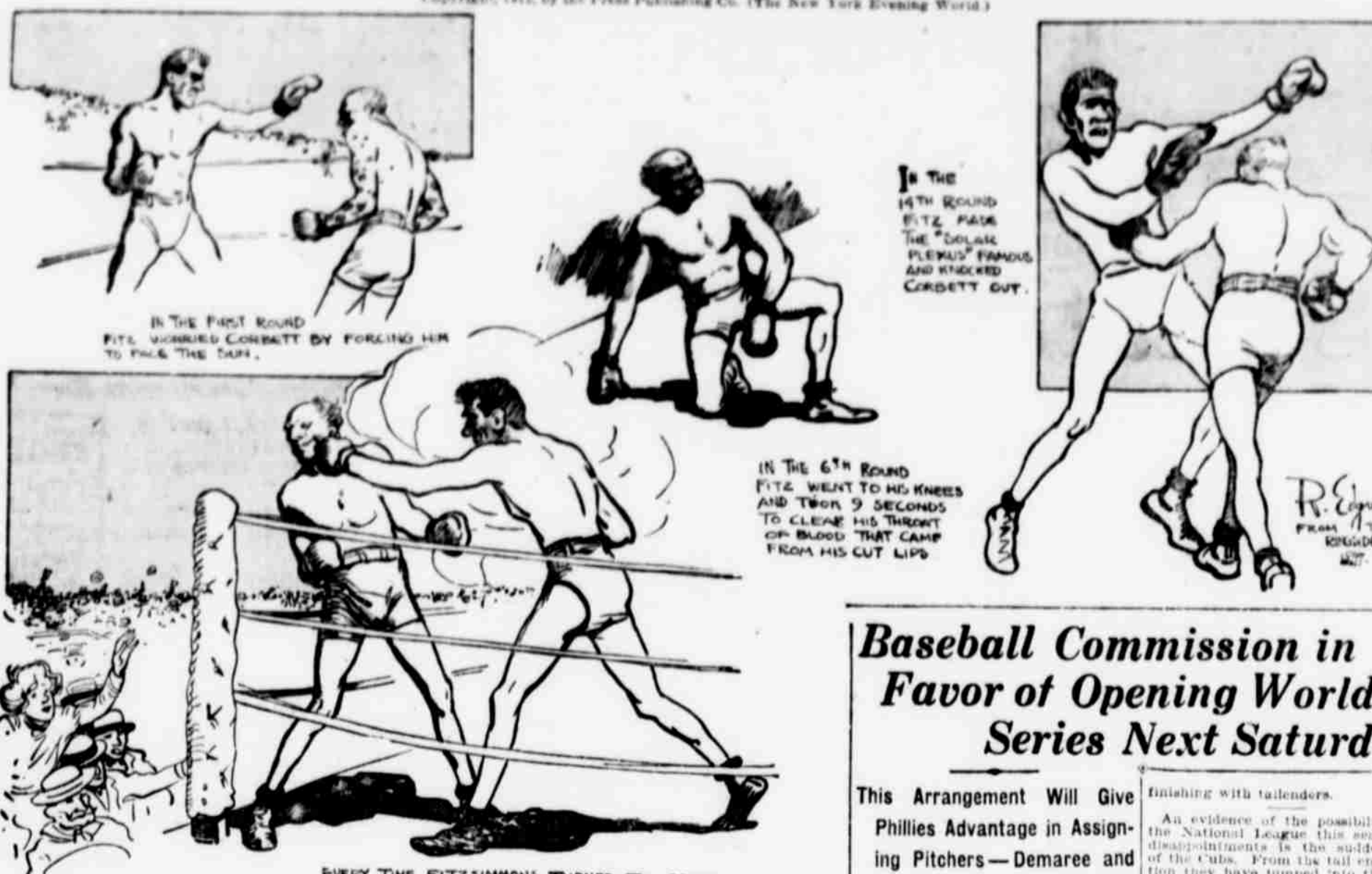
After a few rounds it began to look bad for Bob. He wasn't landing his heavy hooks and swings. He was bleeding, a little dazed, grimly patient, and still turning his head to listen to Mrs. Fitz and nod encouragingly to her while she shrieked to Corbett: "You can't lick my Bob." Corbett smiled at her in an aggravating way over Fitz's shoulder, which drove her to greater endeavors, and Fitz still turned his head, and Corbett nailed him.

In the sixth round Fitzsimmons, who had been jabbed until he was dizzy and who was choking with the blood that ran down his throat from cut lips and abraded nostrils, dropped to his knees. Corbett was jubilant. Referee Siler held him off and counted nine. Having cleared his throat and rested a little, Fitzsimmons got up. But then the bell rang and Fitz recoiled to his corner so picturesquely that his own seconds thought he was whipped.

In the beginning of the seventh out of pocket on training and other

FITZ AND CORBETT IN THEIR MEMORABLE BATTLE

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Tom Orr's Wife Won't
Permit Him to Start in
\$50,000 Astor Cup Race

Young Bride's Pleadings Forced Him to Withdraw From Big Event—Late Entries Have Chance to Qualify To-Morrow.

Tom Orr is not going to drive in the Astor Cup race at the Sheepshead Bay Motorrome to-morrow. His wife won't let him. Ever since the track has been opened Tommy has been burning up the boards, travelling around at anywhere from a ninety to a hundred mile an hour clip. It was thought that he was a "sure thing" to bring home one of the twelve prizes.

Keen disappointment was felt when he came around and announced that he wouldn't start in the big \$50,000 event. Right away he was asked "what was wrong with his Maxwell."

"Why, nothing," said the big good-natured Tom. "You know I'm married now and I don't want to make my wife a widow when I'm practically still on my honeymoon. It's all right for those fellows who haven't anybody depending on them to take chances whizzing around the oval at breakneck speed, but not for your Uncle Dudley any more."

It is said that Harry Grant's narrow

and ran across the ring, almost catching Corbett in his own corner. He had been stalling. And from that moment the fight changed its character entirely. Corbett, pale and grim and trying his best, for he had plenty of courage, fought like a champion who knows he's beaten, but who intends to "die game." Fitzsimmons rushed him constantly. In the fourteenth Corbett, backing away, was trying to hold Fitz off with jabs. He jabbed Fitz let the glove slide over his shoulder, shifted his right foot forward, and hooked his left arm around Corbett's middle. As Corbett fell forward Fitz clipped him on the jaw with the same left hand, bringing it up, and whirled around to nail him with his right. But he held back the last blow. It wasn't needed. Corbett was counted out.

Because Tom Andrews, the fight promoter of Milwaukee, agreed to give champion Willie Ritchie more money than he was willing to offer, Charley White for their proposed ten-round bout in that city next month, White notified his manager, Nate Lewis, to inform Andrews that he would not go through with the match.

The American Sporting Club of Harlem will hold a boxing show in Salsar's Park, at One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Street and Second Avenue, to-night. Three ten-round bouts will be fought, and each of them should be interesting. In the main bout Benny Leonard will tackle Al Thomas, while in the other two bouts "Tex" Kelly goes against Harry Rube Howard, and Harry Thorne against Sam Tasso, champion.

Two good lightweights from this vicinity will figure in two of the three ten-round contests to be held by the Milwaukee Boxing Club, for ten rounds at the St. Nicholas Hotel A. C. on Monday night. This bout will be the semi-final to the big battle between Gusman Smith and Al Reich.

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New Colors for
Columbia; Taft
On Yale Varsity

Columbia's football team will probably be considered disloyal when it trots out on the field for its first game three weeks hence because of the discarding of the light blue and white which has been the traditional garb of all Columbia teams and which made Columbia's eleven in the halcyon days of football on Morningside Heights before 1905 the observed of all observers.

The official decree went forth yesterday that save for a wrinkle of light blue on each jersey sleeve and a light blue stripe on the stockings, the uniform of the Columbia eleven will be as like Yale's as possible. Besides obtaining a more pleasing color tone the Columbia authorities think they will be able to save much in laundry bills, because the old-time uniforms were always in the cleaner's hands.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Oct. 1.—Charles P. Taft, son of former President Taft, was shifted to the first varsity team yesterday. He was sent in to play right halfback and did good work in the scrimmage. Scovill was shifted to fullback, replacing Guernsey.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Oct. 1.—Charley Brinkley joined the Harvard coaching staff yesterday and took over the duties of the team. He had eight men working, Whitney and Robinson doing the best work.

PRINCETON, N. J., Oct. 1.—Buzz Law got into uniform yesterday and his presence simplified the backfield proposition. There was a short scrimmage. This was preceded by short secret drill in signals.

Hub Perdue, who got away from the Boston Braves at his own request and joined the Cardinals only to see his former teammates win the pennant and the World's Series, will now have to share the honors of being the hardest-luck "guy" in baseball with Sherwood Magee of the Braves. Last year when Stallings wanted to brace up his team he thought of the hard-hitting Magee and Sherwood jumped at the chance to get with a pennant winner. He was the oldest player on the Philadelphia team and on one occasion led the National League in hitting. It now turns out that in going with the Braves Magee jumped right away from a pennant winner to join hands with a loser, and his long career as a hard hitter goes for naught. After nine years of patient toil to be with a champion he finds himself out of the limelight and minus the fat roll that goes with a world's series. Tough luck!

On the other hand, Al Demaree and Milton Stock, after being with the Giants as pennant winners, were let out just in time to land with the new champions and escape the stigma of

Baseball Commission in
Favor of Opening World's
Series Next Saturday

This Arrangement Will Give Phillies Advantage in Assigning Pitchers—Demaree and Stock Lucky to Land With Champions.

By Bozeman Bulger.

NOTWITHSTANDING the traditional pledge of secrecy which prevents the National Commission from announcing arrangements for the World's Series until the pennant has been clinched in both leagues it is understood that a majority of the members favor opening on Saturday, Oct. 9. The majority of the Commission being made up of National League men—Gov. Tener and Garry Herrmann—makes it all the more certain. Naturally these gentlemen want the Phillies to win, and it is believed that Moran will have a decided advantage by a Saturday opening. It will also be advantageous from a financial point of view, provided the game is played in Boston where the Braves held seats 47,000 people. There is a rule which says a coin must be tossed to decide on the park for the opening, but with many thousands of dollars hanging in the balance it may not be difficult to manipulate the said coin just a trifle. Especially so when it will make no particular difference in the result, each city getting two games at a time until the championship is decided.

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finishing with tailenders.

An evidence of the possibilities in the National League this season of disappointments is the sudden rise of the Cubs. From the tail end position they have jumped into the first division by beating the Reds four straight. It is still possible for the Giants to do the same thing, but not probable. The failure of the Giants to land among the favored four has cost New York bettors thousands of dollars. A prominent theatrical man declared yesterday that he knew of five bets aggregating close to \$5,000 that McGraw's team would finish as fourth. There is still a chance, but it is a slim one.

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